

From: Onkar Bindra [<mailto:osbindra35@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2015 12:29 PM
To: Tom Adams
Cc: Kenneth McDonald
Subject: Dalip Singh Saund, a Sikh immigrant

Dear Dr. Adams,
Greetings!

PLACE OF BIRTH. Reference "Prominent Foreign-Born Americans", a chapter in "The Citizen's Almanac", published by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. For each person including Dalip Singh Saund, it gives birth location, not just the country. I suggest we follow the same practice so readers can easily reach his roots.

In case of Dalip Singh Saund, the chapter states, "Saund was born September 20, 1899, in Chhajulwadi, Punjab, India" where "Chhajulwadi" is the name of a village and "Punjab" is State and shows his ethnic background.

SIKH IMMIGRANT. Reference Chapter 3, grade 4, page 97 of the draft Framework. It is quite appropriate to retain the words "a Sikh immigrant" Apparently, it was first used in Harcourt School Publishers, California Series, Reflections: California: a Changing State, chapter 10, page 403, approved by SBE/CDE in 2005; and was included in the 2010 Draft H/SS Framework and is now in 2014-15 Draft H/SS Framework.

SAUND DID NOT CONVERT. I invite your attention to my article, "Saund Remained a Sikh Throughout" in www.PunjabMailusa.com Weekly of 23-29 Oct. 2014, page 26. Dalip Singh Saund did not change his birth religion of Sikhism, served as General Secretary of Sikh Temple Stockton during 1948-50; and his cremation, disposal of cremains and memorial services were held according to the Sikh faith and tradition. It will be inappropriate to remove the word "Sikh" as suggested by some.

Accordingly, Chapter 3, G-4, should be modified to read as follows:

"They learn about the contributions of immigrants to California and United States history, such as Dalip Singh Saund, a Sikh immigrant born in village Chhajulwadi, Punjab (India), became the First Asian-American to serve in the United States Congress."

FINALLY. Born in a Sikh family in a village (Chhajulwadi, Punjab, India), Dalip Singh Saund served the community, the state and the country well. He was a trail-blazer and achieved the distinction of becoming the First Asian-American Congressman in 1957 and was re-elected twice before a crippling stroke cut short his political career.

For questions, if any, please feel free to call me or e-mail me at my new address:
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Thanks.

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